

THE CELINA DEMOCRAT

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FRIDAY, June 30, 1911

POOR WICKERSHAM TOO BLIND TO SEE

[Bryan's Comment.]
Attorney General Wickersham delivered an address at Princeton University in which he sought to poke fun at the initiative and referendum. He called it "emotional" and "un-American."

Governor Wilson of New Jersey used to talk the same way. In a speech delivered at Norfolk, Va., recently, Gov. Wilson said:

"For twenty years I preached to the students of Princeton that the referendum and recall were bores. I have since investigated, and I want to apologize to those students. It is the safeguard of politics. It takes the power from the boss and places it in the hands of the people. I want to say with all my power that I favor it."

FINALLY GET WHAT WAS PROMISED LONG AGO

Both political parties will have a hard time searching for pledges when the next State platform is written. The Ohio Democratic general assembly not only passed more progressive legislation than any since the adoption of the constitution, but the members also crystallized into law a great many bills that had been promised in Republican platforms for twenty years, but had never been redeemed. All of the big bills enacted by the 1911 general assembly had been promised the people five to twenty years ago by the Republican party. The direct election of U. S. Senators, non-partisan judiciary bill, workman's compensation act, public utilities bill, corrupt practices act, initiative and referendum, the competitive bidding plan for the deposits of state money, the reformation of tax laws, and the central board of control bill, all enacted by the 1911 general assembly, had been issues in Ohio for many years.

The Democratic general assembly cleaned the slate of all big issues. In five months the Democratic general assembly gave the people of Ohio bills that they have been fighting twenty years to get from Republican general assemblies.

Disregarding the individual acts of a very few members and taking into consideration the work of the controlling element of the Democratic general assembly, one can arrive at only one conclusion. That is, the achievements of that body were a great blessing to the people.

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF RAILROADS

Supervision of Trusts and Confiscation of Earnings in Excess of Ten Per Cent.

Outright government ownership of the railroads and supervision of the trusts, all earnings of the latter in excess of ten per cent to be confiscated, is advocated by Ohio C. Barber, head of the match trust, in a letter to the members of Congress, whom he upbraids for playing politics while the country suffers. Barber says such a course would bring a speedy readjustment of the chaotic commercial and industrial relations and that the trust heads would welcome the stability it would insure.

Barber would repeal the Sherman anti-trust law and enact a federal cor-

poration law under which the government would have a control of the corporations similar to that exercised over national banks. He advocates a prevention of excesses instead of prosecutions after offenses have been committed. He charges that in ten years railroad manipulators have stolen more than all the thieves sentenced to prison in the last half century. Under present conditions, he says, the big thieves will continue to escape.

He expresses the belief that a fear of plunging the country into a maelstrom of business disorder, "with resultant disaster and financial distress," influenced the supreme court in reading "the law of reason" into the anti-trust law. Incidentally he asks if Congress is no longer to be trusted to safeguard the rights of the people, and if the supreme court is to be regarded as a body of revisionary legislators, "guardians of the people against the great wrongs which Congress has made possible by its acts and which by inaction now it permits to continue."

He advocates the government's taking over the railroads at full valuation, issuing in exchange three per cent bonds, to be sold to the people over the counter. He says the railroad question, now in its infancy, will sweep the country like a tornado within the next few years.

WHY TAFT AND BIG BUSINESS HATE RECALL

President Taft has had occasion to observe some of the workings of the recall, which probably accounts for his bitter opposition. In 1906 the people of Oregon endorsed a Democrat for United States Senator and at the same time elected a Republican legislature pledged to ratify the popular choice.

This did not suit either the interests of the Republican machine. Agents of the Republican National Committee came into Oregon to offer federal appointments to Republican members of the legislature who would violate their pledge. These methods would probably have succeeded if Oregon had not had the recall. Members were notified that recall petitions were ready for anyone who violated his pledge. Thereupon the legislators virtuously spurned the offered bribes and elected popular choice.

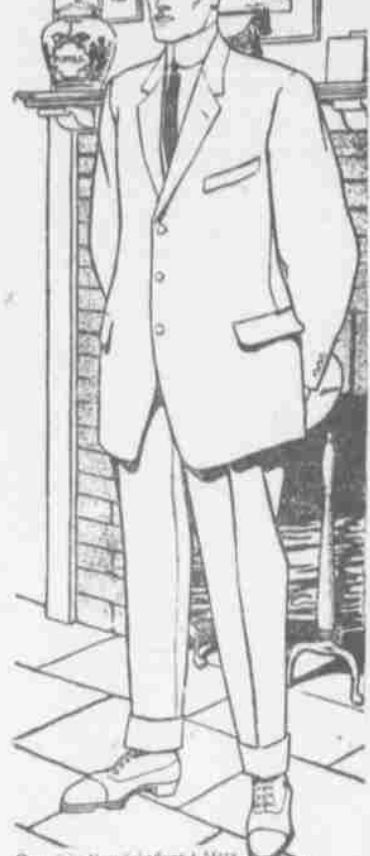
It is hard enough for Big Business to have control of the legislature in the first place, but it would be infinitely worse to spoil its control of the judiciary. No wonder President Taft is worried.

RECIPROCITY FIGHT AND DEADLY PARALLEL

Secretary of War Stimson has been denounced as a "free trader" by the American Protective League. The reason is not exactly clear, but his endorsement of the President's reciprocity program is probably at the bottom. President Taft was also denounced as a free trader by Nathan T. Folwell, an official of the Protective Tariff League and president of the Manufacturers' Club of Philadelphia. Unfortunately it would be very hard to prove the charge against either gentleman.

The incident is interesting because it discloses an historical parallel. The tariff barons of to-day are acting like the slavery barons of ante-bellum times, and will probably bring the same destruction to their heads thereby. Stephen A. Douglas was as faithfully a servant of the pro-slavery interests as Taft and Stimson are of the tariff interests. But he found necessary once to make a slight concession of little practical importance to anti-slavery feeling. The slaveholders never forgave him. They fought him bitterly when he was nominated for President, and through their opposition Lincoln was elected. The same history repeats itself the better.

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into his chair as naturally as though she had been coming there for a shine every day of her life. Had Jacko had more than 14 years back of him he must have noticed what an attractive girl she was, but with true business instinct he observed only how small her shoes were, and that they were wet and needed cleaning.

"You have walked pretty far in the snow, I guess," he said as he clasped the steel ankle-holder over her skirts. "Yes, I was from the Marlborough, but I was simply screaming with nervousness. I couldn't sit in the hotel another minute. What's your name?" she asked.

"Jacko," he answered. "Jacko! How funny! Sounds like a monkey's. Jacko what?"

"Jacko Tomassillo," he replied, without glancing from his work. The girl leaned over and touched the cap he wore. "Look at me, Jacko," she said. He looked up quickly, surprised into forgetting his absorbing task of trying to produce a mirror on the surface of the little tin boat.

"You don't mind if I talk to you, do you? I'm dead with loneliness. I've been at the Marlborough ten days and not a soul but my maid to speak to. Thank goodness, I'm well enough to go home tomorrow!"

"Too bad-a," said Jacko, sympathetically. "Of course it's too bad-a," replied the girl, as she laughingly copied his broken English.

"Tell me, aren't you happy in our America? Don't we treat you well?" "Yes, they treat me all right, I guess, only it's cold, and I make a little money here," he faltered, bravely. "And you want to make big money? What for, Jacko? Money doesn't always bring happiness."

"It would to me. I want to learn music, to get to be a big man like the leader of the band down here. He is a very rich girl. He great man. The boy's face glowed a deep red under the gleaming bronze of his skin. The girl opened her little gold purse.

"But you didn't tell me how much. Never mind, I want to give you this, anyway." She dropped the coin into Jacko's rough little palm. "Can you keep a secret?" she asked him.

Jacko thought he could. "Well, then, I'm engaged, and I'm going to be married soon to a great piece!"—the only one Jacko had ever seen. Oh, what couldn't he do with all that money! How he would study!—how he would practice! He was the happiest boy in the world! To his flummoxed fancy the girl had suddenly become an angel.

It was 12 o'clock that night before Jacko was in bed. From an old Hebrer music teacher who lived in a single room near his own lodging house he had taken his first lesson. A fellow lodger had told him "Old Hebrer could teach him the quickest of anyone he knew." That was exactly what Jacko wanted—to learn quickly, for had she not said she would come again soon?

As the weather moderated Jacko fetched his violin to the stand each morning. Now when the shins were slow he slumped into the chair himself and sat there poring over his exercises. Occasionally when business had been brisk he gave himself the luxury of a seat at the evening concert on the pier.

It was then Jacko attained the sublime height of absolute contentment. He adored the leader. He thought him the most perfect type of a great musician the world had ever owned.

One night they played Jocelyn's "Berceuse." Jacko sat all through it like something carved from stone. He had never heard such music. It seemed a cry from his own heart.

It was the last number on the

program. At its conclusion the leader threw down his baton, the men were picking up their music and instruments, the audience was pushing its way to the board-walk, and still Jacko sat in his chair. Suddenly swept by a wave of courage, he went over to the bandmaster.

"Oh, sir!" he exclaimed, "what-a—that music,—tell me what it was."

The leader, slender and acetic looking, with masses of coal-black hair sweeping the brow and eyes, regarded Jacko not unkindly. "Which piece do you mean?" he asked. Then he wrote the name for him on a slip of paper. Nothing the look of joy his act of kindness kindled in the eyes of the little Italian, he wrote a pass for two good the following Sunday, when Jocelyn's "Berceuse" would again be on the program.

That night Jacko dreamed the bandmaster had asked him to play the "Berceuse" at one of the Sunday concerts. When he awakened the applause of the people was ringing in his ears, and he was sitting up in bed bowing to the audience of his dreams. It was so real, so beautiful—Jacko could not part with the memory of it.

Oh! if only the bandmaster would really let him play. He was kind to him that morning. Perhaps if he told him how much it would mean to him he would give him the chance.

It was after the concert Sunday that Hebrer, to whom Jacko had confided his hopes, led the boy, trembling in every limb, to the great leader.

Again the bandmaster was kind. He listened attentively to all Jacko had to say, even smiling indulgently and putting him on the head as he suggested he play for him some morning after the concert.

"It might be I'd put you on one of the Sunday programs. Who knows?" he said.

Such days of hard work tempered by the joy of hope as followed! Jacko spent his mornings at the stand. At two o'clock he pulled in the shutters, for after that the shins were few. Then came long hours of practice that carried him far into the night. Old Hebrer was heart and soul in the spirit of it. He wanted Jacko to win.

Thus the time rolled round to the day the bandmaster had told Hebrer he might fetch the boy. They went together, Jacko, his several months' growth of hair a scraggy fringe, carrying his violin, his threadbare suit brushed and pressed till it fairly shone. The music master was all smiles—a confidence.

But the leader was cross that morning. He thought he had been snubbed by Van Wetzel, the great organist. It hurt his pride. It ruffled his temper. Van Wetzel had come to the concert late. A young woman with him led him to a seat near the platform. The bandmaster noted with pleasure the organist's presence. He would speak to him as soon as he had finished that piece. But when he threw down his baton and started towards them they were making their way down the aisle, formed by rows of chairs, to the open end of the pier beyond.

Used only to the plaudits, to the adulation of the people, the leader was piqued that the famous organist, whom he had met the year before in Boston, should have overlooked him.

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